

## Regional Panel Recommendations and Activities for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting, North Charleston, South Carolina, April 29-30, 2008

### Panel: Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

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#### High-Priority and/or Emerging Regional Issues

- **Ballast Water Regulations:** Effective federal regulation of ballast water discharges that are implemented on nationwide basis (see recommendation section).
- **Rapid Response:** Improve readiness for rapid response by providing a mechanism for coordinated state and federal actions through the work of a Great Lakes Panel ad-hoc Rapid Response Committee.
- **Risk Assessment and Screening:** Investigate how the Great Lakes Panel can maintain involvement in risk assessment/screening (potentially via ad hoc Committee, or other initiatives) to maintain momentum going from risk-related discussions at the fall meeting (see below).
- **Organisms in Trade (OIT) Vector:** Explore the significance of the trade of live organisms that are invasive or potentially invasive in efforts to reduce the risk of aquatic invasive species introduction and spread in the Great Lakes region.
- **ANS Task Force Expert Database:** Continue work on the development and application of ANS Task Force database to include a broader scope of expertise and promote use of the database in the region, with particular attention paid to establish contacts needed for rapid response planning and implementation.

#### Key ANS events and activities from November 2007 to April 2008: Great Lakes Panel

- **Fall 2007 GLP Meeting:** The Great Lakes Panel convened for the fall meeting November 28-29, 2007 in Ypsilanti, Mich. The meeting agenda, action items and summary can be found online, through the Panel website at <http://glc.org/ans/panel.html#glpmeet>. The meeting featured presentations and discussion on the development and use of risk assessment and screening tools to prevent aquatic invasions through pathways such as the aquarium trade, aquaculture, horticulture, and live food fish. This meeting session provided the opportunity for the Panel to discuss management options to address non-ballast pathways of AIS introduction and spread.
- **Spring 2008 Joint ANS Panel Meeting:** Planning is underway for the spring Great Lakes Panel meeting that will be held jointly with the Mississippi River Basin Panel, scheduled for June 17-19, 2008 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This joint meeting will provide an opportunity for the two Panels to work together and move forward on issues shared between the regions. The agenda will include a balance of plenary presentations from each ANS Panel and joint break-out sessions to encourage the exchange of information and experiences on exemplary prevention and control initiatives. Details for the meeting, including logistics and an agenda, are posted on the Great Lakes Panel website (<http://glc.org/ans/panel.html#glpmeet>) as they become available.
- **ANS Update (Volume 13, No. 2):** The fall issue of the *ANS Update* featured an article, authored by Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission Program Specialist, describing the outcomes of the recently completed Commission project on state management planning for ANS prevention and control. The NOAA-funded project supported the conduct of a series of six workshops held in various Great Lakes states from 2005-2007. The purpose of each workshop, tailored to state priorities, was to assist the host state in the development, implementation, evaluation, and/or revision of its ANS state management plans. The culmination of the workshop series was a one-day session featuring project outcomes as part of the May 2007 joint meeting of the ANS Task Force and Great Lakes Panel. For further details, refer to the project website (<http://www.glc.org/ans/initiatives.html#advance>) and the *ANS Update* website (<http://www.glc.org/ans/ansupdate/>)
- **Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions booklet:** Work has been initiated with the province of Quebec to develop a French translation of the *Great Lakes Aquatic Invasions* booklet. This initiative is being coordinated by project staff with the Ministère du Développement durable, de

l'Environnement et des Parcs in conjunction with the Commission's Quebec internship program. Staff has continued distribution of this publication to Great Lakes Panel members and other interested parties. Recent distribution efforts of this educational tool have been targeted toward state and federal legislators. Staff will be working closely with Panel members to develop an appropriate dissemination strategy and mechanism for feedback. An electronic version of the booklet, along with associated references, is available online at <http://www.glc.org/ans/aquatic-invasions>. Print copies may be ordered at [www.glc.org/docs/](http://www.glc.org/docs/).

- **ANS Task Force Expert Database:** The Information/Education Committee will be working on expanding the scope of experts to include experts other than taxonomic, which should be included in the database, with particular attention paid to establish contacts needed for rapid response planning and implementation. The Committee will also be working to identify and capitalize on opportunities to promote the use of the database within the region. This may include a workshop, as part of a broader regional event, and communications to professional organizations, such as local chapters of the American Fisheries Society.

#### **Key ANS events and activities from November 2007 to April 2008: State/Interstate**

- **Indiana:** The 2007 Lake Manitou hydrilla eradication project resulted in an estimated 86 percent reduction in the tuber population. Recognizing that the goal of eradication will take multiple years, treatment will resume in May 2008 with a slight shift in application strategy in an attempt to more selectively eliminate hydrilla while reducing damage to native submersed plants. Work continues with an aquatic plant work group that involves businesses in the aquatic plant trade, aquatic plant enthusiasts, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, University of Notre Dame, and The Nature Conservancy. A screening tool has been developed to trim the number of aquatic plants that must be sent through a formal risk assessment. Eventually the group will identify the risky invasives in trade and develop strategies to limit their use or prevent their release into the wild. **Contact:** Doug Keller, Indiana DNR, [dkeller@dnr.in.gov](mailto:dkeller@dnr.in.gov).
- **Illinois:** Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG) conducted a survey of water gardeners at the Flower and Patio Show, which will be used to inform future outreach efforts for this audience. On May 10, IISG is hosting an Asian carp cut and cook demonstration at the Bass Pro in Bolingbrook, IL. At this event, Duane Chapman (USGS) will demonstrate filleting techniques and Bass Pro will fry up samples of bighead and silver carp. IISG will also host the "Predicting Impacts of Invasive Species on Lake Michigan Food Webs" workshop, June 3-4, 2008 in Chicago, IL. At this workshop scientists and funding agencies will engage in a facilitated dialog that is designed to identify specific research questions, data gaps, and time and space considerations needed to conduct research investigating the invasive species impacts on food webs in Lake Michigan beginning in the 2010 field season. The DNR recently conducted an herbicide treatment of Mermet Lake (Massac County) intended to control curlyleaf pondweed in the lake, which attracts thousands of waterfowl annually and has been one of the best fishing destinations in southern Illinois; controlling curlyleaf pondweed is of utmost importance at this site to prevent its spread into other lakes and wetlands in southern Illinois, including the Cache River and Cache River Wetlands. **Contact:** Patrice Charlebois, IISG, [charlebo@uiuc.edu](mailto:charlebo@uiuc.edu).
- **Michigan:** The Office of the Great Lakes sponsored a stakeholder meeting March 5 entitled, Michigan's Call to Action on Aquatic Invasive Species to discuss the economic and environmental challenges facing the state of Michigan in regards to AIS. This meeting brought together more than 80 stakeholders with a vested interest and/or concern for AIS prevention and control in the Great Lakes and Michigan waters including environmental organizations, affected industry, riparians, anglers, boaters, resource managers, researchers, and other interested individuals. Participants were asked to recommend needed actions in areas of funding; early detection and monitoring; rapid response and education and outreach to address AIS in Michigan. Discussions and recommendations will be summarized and used as a foundation to update Michigan's AIS state management plan. More information is available at <http://michigan.gov/deqaquaticinvasives>. Ninety-four permits have been issued to oceangoing vessels representing 37 different companies under Michigan's ballast water law, which requires a permit for port operations. **Contact:** Emily Finnell, MDEQ, [finnelle@michigan.gov](mailto:finnelle@michigan.gov).

- **Ohio:** The ODNR Division of Wildlife will hold its first AIS Committee meeting on April 30th, 2008. Items to be discussed include the committee's mission, relevant issues, the revision of Ohio's State Management Plan for AIS, and the development of a Rapid Response Plan (RRP) for Ohio. Following a tip from the USFWS, the Division of Wildlife eradicated diploid grass carp from a golf course pond. While fifty percent of the fish were recovered, legal action is pending against the wholesaler in Texas. Several local groups were assisted by the DNR with the control of invasive plants along Lake Erie. **Contact:** John Navarro, ODNR Division of Wildlife, [john.navarro@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:john.navarro@dnr.state.oh.us).
- **Ontario:** During fall 2007, mandatory HACCP training occurred for 184 licensed bait harvesters who had to complete a Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) approved HACCP plan to receive their license. Ontario Fishery Regulations changes restrict emptying contents of bait bucket within 30m of water-body and place restrictions on angler use of rusty crayfish. In collaboration with Quebec, MNR, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and others are planning a water chestnut monitoring and removal program in the Ottawa River to begin summer 2008. A comprehensive AIS field guide containing over 50 species of plants, fish and invertebrates is being distributed to field staff across Ontario and a companion workshop series will be launched this summer to facilitate reporting the occurrence of AIS in Ontario waters. In June, MNR will launch an online map-based database of AIS sightings throughout Ontario. Users of the tool will be able to search and download information about one or more invasive species seen in a particular lake or in a defined geographic region and view/print a map. A school program for grade 6 science curriculum will be launched in September and the grade 4 program *Making Waves* has been a great success in 2007. **Contact:** Beth Brownson, MNR, [beth.brownson@ontario.ca](mailto:beth.brownson@ontario.ca).
- **Pennsylvania:** The AIS Workgroup of the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council (PISC) has been working actively in the areas of developing an AIS Rapid Response Plan; developing a list of priority AIS in the Commonwealth; conducting outreach; and working to secure funding for Council operations. The Council is currently interviewing candidates for the newly created position of PISC Coordinator. Pennsylvania Sea Grant hosted a Lower Great Lakes Ballast Water Management Workshop in March 2008; published a training video and manual for volunteers participating in the state zebra and quagga mussel monitoring network; and produced four new AIS fact sheets. In partnership with USEPA, PADEP is planning a mock AIS Rapid Response exercise to be conducted this summer. **Contact:** Jim Grazio, PADEP, [jagrazio@state.pa.us](mailto:jagrazio@state.pa.us).
- **Wisconsin:** Wisconsin is continuing its rapid response to the isolated hydrilla population in an artificial pond in northeastern Wisc. The pond was drawn down over the winter to winter-kill tubers. Monitoring will be conducted this summer to detect any re-growth. Although the pond is not connected to any natural waterbodies, monitoring of nearby waters is still being conducted. Emergency rules to limit the spread of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia are still in effect statewide and have recently been revised to allow limited re-use of bait by anglers in non-VHS waters. **Contact:** Julia Solomon, WI DNR, [julia.solomon@wisconsin.gov](mailto:julia.solomon@wisconsin.gov).

#### Panel Recommendations to the ANS Task Force

- **Federal Ballast Water Regulation:** The Great Lakes Panel is unified in our strong desire for a continued effort to establish new federal regulations to effectively regulate ballast water discharges on a national scale. Given the priority need for federal ballast regulations, it is recommended that the ANS Task Force lend all possible support to expedite enactment of effective federal regulation of ballast water discharge to prevent further AIS introductions in the Great Lakes through the maritime commerce vector. The need is urgent as non-native species that continue to be introduced by inadequately regulated ballast water are permanently altering the Great Lakes ecosystem. Each year that passes without significantly improved regulations risks the introduction of new invasive species. This request is viewed to be in keeping with the Task Force Strategic Plan (2007-2012) under Objective 5.2: *explore opportunities to establish statutory and regulatory authorities necessary to implement ANSTF goals and objectives*. Strengthening ballast water regulation is critical to protecting the environmental health and economic strength of the Great Lakes region and beyond.